United Nations S/2000/407

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 May 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 10 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to inform you of the dramatic health condition of the arbitrarily detained Serbs on hunger strike in a prison in Kosovska Mitrovica. In my previous correspondence (S/2000/325 and S/2000/352), I advised you of the problem and of the deterioration of their condition.

At the last medical examination, it was found out that their condition was rapidly deteriorating and that 11 of them were in a critical condition. It was suggested that they be taken to hospital and be given immediate medical attention. So far only Arsenije Vitosevic and Vlastimir Aleksic have been hospitalized.

The doctors that examined them called on the judicial and police organs of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to end the detention of the strikers immediately so that they could be treated properly. However, UNMIK continues to turn a deaf ear to these requests, as well as to the requests of the detained Serbs to be tried fairly and without delay. The refusal of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and UNMIK to accede to these requests not only constitutes a grave violation of human rights, but may lead to tragic consequences and even to the loss of life of the detainees.

I call on you to use your influence in order to put an end to the suffering of the detained Serbs and to forestall the most tragic consequences.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

00-42611 (E) 100500